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**CO-VE BORDER**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATE

25X1

83 1648074 SCR

NC 1648074

TOR: 130242Z JUL 83

RR RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
STU8782  
RR RUEHC  
DE RUEHCV #5943 1932133  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 122133Z JUL 83  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6395  
INFO RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6734  
RUEOEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN//  
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8111

BT

EZ1:

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EZ2:

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PBTS, PREL, CO, VE

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR "A  
- LAST EFFORT" TO RESOLVE VENEZUELAN BORDER  
- DISPUTE"

REF: CARACAS 5858

1. (U) COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGO LLOREDA CAICEDO, PRESENTLY IN CARACAS ATTENDING A MEETING OF BOLIVARIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, HAS BEEN WIDELY QUOTED BY LOCAL MEDIA TO THE EFFECT THAT COLOMBIA IS INTERESTED IN HELPING TO MAKE "A LAST EFFORT" TO NEGOTIATE THE GULF OF VENEZUELA SUBMARINE AND MARINE FRONTIER. AT THE SAME TIME, HE NOTED GOC AWARENESS THAT A RESOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE EFFECTED UNTIL AFTER THE DECEMBER 1983 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, A POINT ALSO MADE BY COLOMBIA'S PRESIDENT BETANCUR WHEN HE MET IN VENEZUELA WITH HERRERA CAMPINS ON JULY 7 (REF).

2. (U) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, LLOREDA STATED THAT THE

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ISSUE HAD BEEN PENDING FOR TOO LONG AND THAT IT WAS TAKING UP TIME AND EFFORT WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES, "TWO OF THE (CONTINENT'S) MOST STABLE DEMOCRACIES", NEEDED FOR OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES AND QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND FINANCE IN WHICH THEY HAD AN INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY. COLOMBIA, LLOREDA EMPHASIZED, WAS THEREFORE DETERMINED TO KEEP THE ISSUE A BILATERAL ONE AND WAS NOT INCLINED TO SHIFT IT TO INTERNATIONAL FORA, A MOVE WHICH HE SAID WOULD ONLY POSTPONE A TIMELY AND MUCH-NEEDED RESOLUTION.

3. (LOU)-COMMENT: BY THE REPEATED USE OF THE PHRASE "A LAST EFFORT" AND BY EMPHASIZING THE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME EXPENDED IN NEGOTIATIONS, LLOREDA APPEARS TO BE SENDING A MESSAGE THAT COLOMBIA'S PATIENCE IS NOT INEXHAUSTABLE AND THAT WHICHEVER VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PART WINS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, COLOMBIA EXPECTS THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION TO SETTLE THE ISSUE THROUGH PROMPT AND SERIOUS NEGOTIATION. MOON

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